

**WASA Statement In Support of U.S. Ambassador
Yovanovitch-- Press Release**

Women Ambassadors Serving America (WASA) is an organization of over 170 current and former U.S. ambassadors who have served faithfully under both Republican and Democratic administrations. The undersigned members of WASA call upon the President of the United States to ensure that no American diplomat at any level is singled out for retribution for partisan, political reasons. Similarly, we call upon Secretary of State Pompeo to follow the procedures and standards of the U.S. Department of State and to ensure that our country's professional Foreign Service Officers- who swear an oath to uphold the Constitution - never suffer retaliation for political reasons.

President Trump's reported remarks regarding former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie "Masha" Yovanovitch in a July 25 phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, as presented in the memorandum of conversation released by the White House last week, raise serious concerns. In particular, denigrating the Ambassador and stating that "she's going to go through some things" suggests that it might be an intention to punish the Ambassador for unspecified actions. This appears to be a threat of retaliation for political reasons, which is both shocking and inappropriate. These statements demean and threaten Ambassador Yovanovitch, who already was removed prematurely from her post in May for similarly opaque reasons driven by false reporting and innuendo, despite her very strong record of speaking out clearly and firmly against corruption in Ukraine.

Ambassador Yovanovitch is a highly respected Senior Foreign Service Officer who has served the United States with remarkable commitment and distinction under numerous Republican and Democratic administrations. Throughout her distinguished 33- year career, she has consistently supported the interests and national security of the United States and she has been nominated by the President and confirmed as Ambassador by the U.S. Senate on three separate occasions - to Kyrgyzstan, Armenia and Ukraine.

For U.S. diplomacy to be an effective instrument of statecraft, it is vital that the non-partisan, non-political work of the dedicated public servants of the U.S. Department of State be respected and honored – just as we honor the contributions of U.S. military service members and other government colleagues. That respect must begin at the highest levels of U.S. leadership, and be

communicated consistently to international audiences, in private as well as public communication. To do otherwise is to undercut U.S. diplomatic efforts and the safety of U.S. personnel worldwide.

Signatories:

Piper Anne Wind Campbell, Ambassador (retired)

Teresita C. Schaffer, former Ambassador to Sri Lanka

Laura Kennedy, former Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament and to Turkmenistan

Ambassador (Ret.) Janet A Sanderson

Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis

Ambassador (Ret.) Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley

Michele Thoren Bond, Former U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho

Carmen Lomellin, Ambassador to the OAS 2009-2014

Ambassador Lisa Kubiske (ret.)

Ambassador Nancy McEldowney

Samantha Power, former US Ambassador to the U.N. (2013-2017)

Ambassador (ret) Maura Connelly

Ambassador (ret.) Shari Villarosa

Azita Raji, former US Ambassador to Sweden

Mary Burce Warlick, former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Serbia

Ambassador (ret) Deborah K Jones

Ambassador Dennise Mathieu (Ret.)

Vicki Huddleston, former Ambassador to Madagascar and Mali

Ambassador (retired) Leslie Bassett

Robin L. Raphel, former Ambassador to Tunisia

Nancy Ely-Raphel. Former US Ambassador to Slovenia

Ambassador (retired) Doria Rosen

Ambassador (Ret.) Judith B Cefkin

Ambassador ret.) Frances D. Cook

Elizabeth Raspolic, former Ambassador to Gabon & Sao Tomé + Príncipe

Ambassador (ret) Dana Shell Smith

Ambassador Bisa Williams (ret)

Aurelia E. Brazeal, Former Ambassador to The Federated States of Micronesia, to Kenya and to Ethiopia

Ambassador (ret) Elinor G. Constable

Ambassador (ret) Avis Bohlen

Ambassador Beth Jones (ret), former Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasia

Prudence Bushnell, former Ambassador to Kenya and Guatemala

Ambassador Dawn Liberi (ret)

Melanne Verveer, former US Ambassador for Global Women's Issues

Ambassador (ret.) Nina Hachigian

Ambassador (ret.) Julie Furuta-Toy

Ambassador (ret) Linda Jewell

Laurie S. Fulton, former U.S. Ambassador to Denmark

Susan M. Elliott, former Ambassador to Tajikistan

Eileen A. Malloy, U.S. Ambassador (ret)

Crystal Nix-Hines, former Ambassador to UNESCO

Ambassador (ret) Adrienne S. O'Neal

Ambassador (ret.) Patricia M. Hawkins

Ambassador (retired) Pamela Hamamoto

Ambassador (ret.) Heather Hodges

Ambassador (ret.) June Carter Perry

Ambassador (ret.) Anne Hall

Ambassador (ret.) Patricia Mioller

Nancy Bikoff Pettit, former Ambassador to Latvia

Ambassador Catherine Ebert-Gray; The views expressed are my own and not necessarily those of the USG

Suzan LeVine, former Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein

Ambassador (ret.) Marcelle M. Wahba